

for his collaborative effort with trumpeter Brian Lynch on the album "Simpatico". Eddie Palmieri's innovative musical fusion of salsa, funk, soul and jazz has captivated audiences for nearly half a century. He has remarkably used his Puerto-Rican heritage, Afro-Caribbean roots and American identification to help diversify the rhythms of Latin jazz. For his noble creativity to help introduce Latin and salsa music to American audiences everywhere, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mr. Eddie Palmieri. A musical genius who paved the way to make Latin music an American hallmark while sustaining this genre's ties to its Caribbean legacy. An American Hero, Eddie Palmieri has devoted his life's work to improving the quality of life for the people of our beloved El Barrio and the Bronx, New York State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. During this year's Hispanic Heritage Month, in addition to paying tribute to my beloved friend Eddie Palmieri, and as a Korean War Veteran, as I conclude my 50 years of Public Service, including 46 years in the United States Congress, I also want to pay a very special salute to the Puerto Rican men and women who answered the call to serve during WWII, our beloved The 65th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "The Borinqueneers".

CONGRATULATING DAVID NORMAN ON HIS OUTSTANDING TEACHING OF TEXAS HISTORY AWARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Norman of Coppell Middle School West, in Coppell, Texas, on receiving the 2016 Linden Heck Howell Outstanding Teaching of Texas History Award.

Mr. Norman has been a strong member of the community for the past ten years, serving the entirety of his teaching career at Coppell West. His admiration for the school system and all those involved is uncanny, especially as his daughter and son both graduated from Coppell. Mr. Norman spends time volunteering at the Coppell YMCA, which earned him the Rookie Volunteer of the Year Award in 2015. He was also nominated for the Coppell YMCA Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for 2016.

Mr. Norman has said of his own accomplishments as an educator:

"When learners are able to see their value and influence in this world, for good or bad, I have succeeded academically. But there is an accomplishment that is nearer to my heart. I think one of the things missing in our society, and in our classrooms, is kindness."

Mr. Norman is an outstanding figure in an already impressive group of students, faculty, and school community. I hope his enthusiasm and exceptional teaching methods carry him for the rest of his tenure. The entire community is influenced by his genuine demeanor and I cannot thank David enough for his posi-

tive impact and hope he continues for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the hard work and support David contributes, as well as his being awarded the Outstanding Teaching of Texas History Award. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing David Norman of Coppell Middle School West.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,852,972,577,729.55. We've added \$9,226,095,528,816.47 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF LEO GALLEGOS JR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Leo Gallegos Jr., who passed away on October 30, 2016 at age 75. Leo was a loving husband, father, grandparent, and friend, who dedicated his life to serving others. He was an American patriot and a humble man who was an inspiration to many. He was a leader in our minority communities, and was a political activist who made an instrumental impact on California's Democratic Party, especially in the Central Valley.

Born on August 5, 1941, in Caldwell, Idaho, Leo was the oldest of 10 children. He was the son of immigrant farmworkers who followed agricultural opportunities to Hanford, California. After graduating high school, Leo enlisted in the United States Army, serving in the 101st Airborne Division until the 1960's. After serving in Korea and retiring from the Armed Forces, he attended Fresno State, receiving a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Social Work.

His passion for politics and drive to help bring change for minority communities first emerged while he was at Fresno State. Through the late 1960's, he helped start Latino and American-Indian student organizations on campus. In 1975, Leo became Governor Jerry Brown's right hand man in the San Joaquin Valley during Brown's first eight years serving in Sacramento. While working in the governor's office, Leo worked tirelessly behind the scenes, advocating for minorities during a time when they were commonly overlooked for public office positions. Leo was interconnected with almost every ethnic group, pushing for a shift in politics that would embrace minorities. He never considered running for an office himself. Instead Leo preferred to work behind the

scenes, not wanting to be in the spotlight. He wanted to do his job to empower others, the best he could.

In the late 1970's, Leo became very politically active in Central California's Democratic circles. He worked diligently to broaden the traditional selection process for judges, state and national positions. He became a political consultant and influential fundraiser who helped minority appointees for judgeships and office positions. In 1983, Leo was appointed by former Congressman Tony Coelho as the national Hispanic coordinator for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Leo is survived by his mother, Esther Gallegos, and his wife Olivia, along with their daughter and son, Stephanie and Sean. He also leaves behind six brothers, two sisters, and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Leo Gallegos Jr., whose passion, dedication, and selflessness behind the scenes made an instrumental impact on reshaping local politics. His life is a testament to the success minorities and immigrants can achieve, and his humbleness and great character is something to be remembered. I join Leo's family in honoring his life, his love for his community, tenacity, passion for making a difference, and service to his country. He will be greatly missed.

TITLE VIII NURSING WORKFORCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support to H.R. 2713, the "Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2015," which extends advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs.

Specifically, I am pleased that this legislation:

Includes clinical nurse leaders as advanced education nurses, thereby making clinical nurse leader education programs eligible for advanced education nursing grants. (Clinical nurse leaders are advanced generalist clinicians who apply research and coordinate care in order to improve outcomes for patients.);

Describes the clinical nurse specialist programs that are eligible for grants and federal aid;

Reauthorizes funding for nursing programs by extending loan repayments and programs through 2020.

H.R. 2713 will provide a general sum of money, as may be necessary, for the fiscal years 2016 through 2020, allowing Congress to appropriate funds as necessity arises.

Importantly, this bill also includes a focus on comprehensive geriatric education, helping to ensure that our parents and grandparents are treated by knowledgeable and well educated personnel.

Student debt has proven an increasing concern for nursing students as the price of programs grows steeper, while employment opportunities grow sparse.

Of recent nursing school graduates in 2012 and 2013, more than 1/3 of borrowing students in the field were unemployed upon graduation, despite a national increase in general recent graduate employment.